

REMARKS

Initially in the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-4 and 17-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,127,945 (Mura-Smith). Claims 10-14 and 26-30 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mura-Smith in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2006/0148488 (Syrbe). The Examiner indicates that claims 5-7, 9, 15, 16, 21-25, 31 and 32 are objected to as being depended upon on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By the present response, claims 5 and 21 have been canceled without disclaimer. Claims 1, 6, 7, 17, 22 and 23 have been amended to further clarify the invention. Claims 1-4, 6-20 and 22-32 remain pending in the present application.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 5-7, 9, 15, 16, 21-25, 31 and 32 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections

Claims 1-4 and 17-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Mura-Smith. Regarding claims 1 and 17, Applicant has amended these claims with the subject matter of claims 5 and 21, respectively, deemed allowable by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicant submits that these claims are patentable over the cited reference at least for this reason. Regarding claims 2-4 and 18-20, Applicant submits that these claims are dependent on one of independent claims 1 and 17 and, therefore, are patentable at least for the same reasons noted regarding this independent claim.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that Mura-Smith does not disclose or suggest the limitations in the combination of each of claims 1-4 and 17-20 of the present ap-

plication. Applicant respectfully requests that these rejections be withdrawn and that these claims be allowed.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

Claims 10-14 and 26-30 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mura-Smith in view of Syrbe. Applicant submits that these claims are dependent on one of independent claims 1 and 17 and, therefore, are patentable at least for the same reasons noted regarding this independent claim.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that none of the cited references, taken alone or in any proper combination, disclose, suggest or render obvious the limitations in the combination of each of claims 10-14 and 26-30 of the present application. Applicant respectfully requests that these rejections be withdrawn and that these claims be allowed.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that claims 1-4, 6-20 and 22-32 are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of such claims is respectfully requested. The Examiner is authorized to charge any fees required and not paid herein, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 13-4365.

Respectfully submitted,



By:

Frederick D. Bailey
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 42,282
Moore & Van Allen PLLC
430 Davis Drive
Suite 500
Morrisville, NC 27560-6832
Telephone: (919) 286-8000
Facsimile: (919) 286-8199

Date: August 14, 2007